

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

December 14, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009 Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2009 meeting. Mayor Paterson requested that the minutes reflect that a citizen was ruled out of order during the public comment section of the meeting. Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion passed, as amended, with all in favor except Mr. Haddad who abstained.

agenda, Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to add Item 8a to the Cancellation of December 28, 2009 meeting. The motion to add the item to the agenda passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, discussed the town attorney's billing process. Statement attached.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, discussed the Town Manager/Council form of government. Statement attached.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, discussed the Storrs Center Project and Public-Private Partnerships. Statement attached.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached

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The Town Manager reported he and the Mayor attended the Region 19 Board Meeting and asked the Board to consider the current economic situation when forming their budget. He also reported that the Ad hoc Regionalization Committee is looking at K-8 shared educational services and has asked Finance Director Cherie Trahan to review the effects of possible regionalization efforts.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. UConn landfill, Long-Term Monitoring Program

Presented to the Council for informational purposes

2. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson commented on the presentation offered to the Campus Community Partnership by a group from Amherst, Massachusetts concerning their efforts to deal with a large student population. Mr. Ryan noted that although many of the problems they experience are the same, the group did offer some different approaches for the Town to consider.

The Town Manager reported the Community Quality of Life Committee met and discussed the following issues: an ordinance regulating parking in certain residential areas, an amendment to the definition of family in the PZC regulations and the creation of a tenant's registry program. Mr. Hart briefly addressed SGT Kodzis's response to Council questions on enforcement of Town ordinances, the presentation of the 2009 UConn Spring Weekend Annual Report and also noted that the University is planning to dredge Mirror Lake in the spring.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee will meet on December 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and Regional School District #19 Administrators Association

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The Town Manager described the statutory options available to the Council and commented that as CEO of the Town he does not see the need to request a district meeting.

Council members discussed the process, the role of the Region 19 Board in setting policy, the size of the increase in comparison to the cost of a referendum and or arbitration, the difficult budget process for the upcoming year and the fact that the Town employees received no increases for the current year. By consensus the Council agreed to have the Mayor send a letter to the Region 19 Board expressing the concerns of the Council.

5. Town Council Orientation, Budget and Finance

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan offered an overview of the responsibilities and structure of the Finance Department including the entities it supports, the various types of funds it maintains and the financial reports the department generates. Ms. Trahan described the budget process and detailed the information found in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mayor Paterson asked Council members to start thinking about ways to address the financial challenges facing the Town.

6. Presentation: Revaluation 2009

Assessor Irene LaPointe reviewed the necessary steps required to undertake a revaluation and the changes in the data for 2009. Ms. LaPointe announced the condo and residential properties have been finished and the commercial revaluation is underway. She compared the cost of the Town's approach of using a consultant and doing much of the work in-house to those like-size area towns that hired firms to complete the project.

7. Town Council Orientation, Goal Setting

Town Manager Matt Hart asked the Council for direction on how they would like to proceed to set goals for their term and beyond. Mr. Hart suggested the staff prepare a list of initiatives and projects as background information for Council review and noted that the financial reality is that the budget will dominate the discussion. He further suggested the Council use the 9 vision points (a government vision point to be added) of the Mansfield 2020 Strategic Plan as a resource. By consensus the Council agreed to plan a workshop to discuss goals.

8. Committee Appointments

Mayor Paterson asked for members to volunteer for committee assignments. In addition to those currently serving the following offered their names for consideration:

Community Quality of Life – Moran

Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee – Paulhus

Regionalization Committee – Schaefer, Lindsey, Haddad and Paterson

University- Town Relations – Keane, Paulhus

School Building Committee – Ryan

The Mayor asked members let her know if they are interested in any other positions. This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

8a. Cancellation of December 28, 2009 meeting.

Following discussion the Council agreed to meet as scheduled, but to set aside the meeting as a workshop for goal setting.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Distributed

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schaefer questioned whether or not the concerns of the Conservation Commission, as expressed in their minutes (page 142), have been addressed by the University and whether or not the letter to the University would be referred to Council for review. The Town Manager stated he believes the University Staff addressed many of the concerns at the Conservation Commission's November meeting and that he would be sending a letter to the Committee reminding them of the policy regarding Communicating of Mansfield Positions.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran announced the Committee on Committees would be meeting on December 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ryan announced the Finance Committee would be meeting on December 28th at 6:00 p.m.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran reported she and Councilor Lindsey attended the COST seminar for new leadership and found it informative, especially the session on possible sources of funding for Towns.

Mayor Paterson commented on her experience as a member of the bipartisan panel of municipal leaders and legislators charged by the Governor with reviewing proposed changes to municipal aid in the state budget. The panel turned down the proposal stating that the state has not sufficiently looked at their budget and asked them to address the issue of unfunded mandates

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. E. Paterson re: FY 2010/11 Budget
10. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: World War II Veterans Recognition Ceremony
11. M. Hart re: Recognition Agreement with United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU)
12. M. Hart re: Committee Appointments
13. L. Hultgren re: CPI Decrease for Single-Family Garbage/Recycling Collection Contract
14. G. Padick re: Proposed telecommunication tower, Daleville Road, Willington
15. C. Trahan re: Invoice for Legal Services
16. ACLU re: Political Sign Regulations
17. J. Saddlemire re: Mansfield Walkways
18. University of Connecticut New Social Sciences & Classroom Buildings – Sustainable Project Summary
19. Chronicle “Council takes vote on sewer group again” – 11/24/09
20. Chronicle “Déjà vu all over again for Paterson and Haddad” – 11/24/09
21. Chronicle “Demand for help high in Mansfield” – 11/28/09
22. Chronicle “Editorial: We offer these threads, needles” – 12/7/09
23. Chronicle “Funding sought to fight drunken drivers” – 12/3/09
24. Chronicle “Hart’s contract extended to 2012” – 12/2/09

25. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 11/18/09
26. Chronicle "Mansfield council to choose leaders" – 11/23/09
27. Chronicle "Mansfield firefighters agree to contract" – 11/18/09
28. Chronicle "Mansfield re-appoints current town attorneys" – 12/1/09
29. Chronicle "School project is more costly" – 11/18/09
30. Chronicle "State ACLU: Mansfield sign rules are illegal" – 12/1/09
31. Chronicle "State cuts force Mansfield to pinch pennies" – 11/30/09
32. Hartford Courant "ACLU says Mansfield lawn sign rules..." – 12/1/09
33. Mansfield Today "Costs rising for MMS fuel conversion project" – 11/21/09
34. Mansfield Today "Grant would help DUI enforcement, Spring..." – 12/3/09
35. Mansfield Today "Group looking at Four Corners development..." – 11/24/09
36. Mansfield Today "Mansfield firefighters agree to contract..." – 11/20/09
37. Mansfield Today "Paterson chosen for 6th term as Mayor..." – 11/24/09
38. Mansfield Today "Town Manager's contract includes one-year..." – 12/3/09

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ms. Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, continued her discussion on use of taxpayer's money. Statement attached.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

None presented

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously

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Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor
Clerk

Mary Stanton, Town

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